

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Vescei et al.	Group Art Unit: 1763
Application No: 10/726,008	Examiner: Anna M. Crowell
Confirmation No: 2692	Attorney Docket No: 008573 USA/AGS/IBSS/HMM
Filing Date: December 1 st , 2003	
Title: MAGNET ASSEMBLY FOR PLASMA CONTAINMENT	July 17, 2007 San Francisco, California

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Examiner Crowell:

This Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance is responsive to the "Reasons for Allowance" provided by the Examiner in the Notice of Allowability attached to the Notice of Allowance and Fees Due statement mailed on May 7, 2007.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300; or electronically filed via PAIR, on the date shown below.

By: _____

Alison R. Parker

Date: _____

7/17/07

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating allowance of all the pending claims, namely claims 1, 3-14, 16, 17 and 21-34.

The Examiner provided the following reasons for allowance, which cited the language of independent claim 1, as follows:

The prior art, either singly or in combinations, fails to anticipate render obvious a magnet assembly for a plasma process chamber comprising a wall, the magnet assembly comprising: (a) a **hollow collar** comprising a radially internal and external surface, and a cross-section that is absent seams, **the collar having a gap extending from about the radially internal surface to about the external surface**, the gap defining opposing faces, at least one face having an open end face, and the collar sized to diametrically expand and snap fit a wall of the process chamber so that the **radially internal surface directly contacts the process chamber wall**; (b) **a cap to seal the at least one open end face**; and (c) a plurality of magnets in the hollow collar, the magnets being insertable through the open end face.

However, the instant claims set contains several independent claims, which are not the same as claim 1, and which each have distinguishable allowable features.

For example, claim 21, as amended in the recently filed Rule 312 amendment, recites:

21. A magnet assembly for a plasma process chamber comprising a wall having a groove, the magnet assembly comprising:

(a) a hollow collar comprising a radially internal and external surface, and a cross-section that is absent seams, the collar having a gap extending from about the radially internal surface to about the external surface, the gap defining opposing faces, at least one face having an open end, and the collar sized to diametrically expand and snap fit the wall of the process chamber so that the radially internal surface directly contacts the process chamber wall;

(b) a cap to seal the at least one open end face;

(c) a plurality of magnets positioned in the hollow collar such that the magnetic axes of the magnets are oriented perpendicular to the wall of the process chamber; and

(d) a retaining ring to retain the hollow collar in the groove of the wall of the process chamber.

Similarly, claim 24, as amended in the recently filed Rule 312 amendment, recites:

24. A magnet assembly for a plasma process chamber comprising a wall, and a liner having a groove, the magnet assembly comprising:

(a) a hollow collar comprising a radially internal and external surface, and a cross-section that is absent seams, the collar having a gap extending from about the radially internal surface to about the external surface, the gap defining opposing faces, at least one face having an open end, and the collar sized to diametrically expand and snap fit the groove of the liner of the process chamber so that the radially internal surface directly contacts the liner;

(b) a cap to seal the at least one open end face;

(c) a plurality of magnets in the hollow collar that abut one another to generate an annular magnetic field about the process chamber, the magnets being positioned in the hollow collar such that their magnetic axes are oriented perpendicular to the wall of the process chamber; and

(d) a key on the external surface of the hollow collar to couple to a corresponding slot on a surface of the liner of the process chamber.

Claim 27, as amended in the recently filed Rule 312 amendment, recites:

27. (Previously presented) A liner assembly for a process chamber comprising a wall, the liner assembly comprising:

(a) a liner having a groove; and

(b) a magnet assembly comprising:

(i) a hollow collar comprising a radially internal and external surface, and a cross-section that is absent seams, the collar having a gap extending from about the radially internal surface to about the external surface, the gap defining opposing faces, at least one face having an open end, and the collar sized to diametrically expand and snap fit the groove of the liner so that the radially internal surface directly contacts the liner;

(ii) a cap to seal the at least one open end face; and

(iii) a plurality of magnets in the hollow collar, the magnets being insertable through the open end face.

Thus each of the independent claims provided in the present application is independently novel and non-obvious over the cited references.

Accordingly, the language of claim 1 which was quoted by the Examiner in the reasons for allowance, should not be used to limit the scope of the other independent claims in the present application, as each independent claim recites an independently patentable combination of elements.

The Examiner is requested to accept the present Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance to explain the Allowability of each independent claim in the present set of claims.

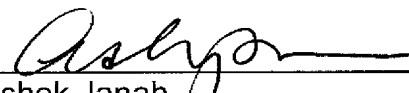
Should the Examiner disagree with the above-discussed remarks or have any questions regarding the same, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

JANAH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Date: July 17, 2007

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